

Contact: Meg Olberding, Director of External Affairs, 206-684-0253

Human Services Department \$30 million Request for Proposals Awards Process Fact Sheet

2014 Unsheltered Task Force, a community advisory group, was convened to make recommendation on the crisis of people living unsheltered, beginning several years of system analysis that would be foundational in preparing a targeted funding process to achieve results.

2015 City of Seattle Mayor and King County Executive declare a State of Emergency on Homelessness to induce state and federal partners to help.

Analysis of all Human Services Investments to baseline programs and identify redundancies and gaps.

2016 The City of Seattle focuses on a three-pronged strategy to address homelessness – emergency need, housing affordability, and strategic long-term systemic shifts.

- Bridging the Gap plan and funding to address emergency needs
- HALA to address housing affordability
- Pathways Home to align regional response system

Barbara Poppe and Assoc. and Focus Strategies conduct analysis of county-wide homeless response system. Make recommendations to unify disjointed programs in to a coordinated system of care.

City of Seattle issues Pathways Home as a policy framework to transform the homeless response from individual programs to an integrated system that prioritizes housing as a solution to homelessness. Pathways Home focus is on six areas: Commitment to unsheltered families; Expand 24-hour Shelter access; Solve waitlists; Connect unsheltered people to services; Make Housing Available; and Good Governance.

City of Seattle, King County, United Way of King County and All Home sign a Memorandum of Understanding that prioritizes a housing first strategy; aligns them on.

-more-

funding for results and performance measures, and pay-for-performance metrics City of Seattle hires Applied Scientific Research to conduct an in-person survey and focus group

discussions with 1,000 people experiencing homelessness to assess their needs and hear from them about their experiences.

2017 Annual Point in Time Count finds 8,476 people experiencing homelessness in Seattle, with 3,857 of those living unsheltered.

February Emergency Operations Center is activated to accelerate parts of Pathways Home including launching the Navigation Team, comprised of outreach social workers and specially-trained police officers to address people living unsheltered in hazardous conditions.

June and August Navigation Center and Compass Shelter at First Presbyterian open as enhanced 24/7 shelters where people can bring their partners, pets, and possessions and connect with case workers to help them move into permanent housing.

Feb.-June **RFP Design underway**

The RFP design includes application questions intended to gauge each applicant's ability to provide a positive client experience and support people in ending homelessness through permanent housing.

April-June HSD leadership provides over 65 stakeholder engagement meetings with people with lived experience of homelessness, service provider agencies (both contracted with HSD and not contracted), faith communities, civic and business leadership, philanthropic foundations, City Council, and more. Their questions and concerns are documented and incorporated as the RFP is being designed.

July Three information sessions are held across Seattle, one each in south, central, and north locations.

185 questions about the RFP were submitted during a month-long period and all responses were posted on the Homeless Investments RFP website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/homeless-investments-rfp>.

July-September

Technical assistance sessions are offered to applicants through a partnership with the Nonprofit Assistance Center. These sessions are intended for grassroots, community-based organizations who requested additional grant writing assistance and who are not as familiar with the City's procurement processes. Ten organizations participate in

-more-

technical assistance sessions including five who participate in multiple sessions. No applicants are turned away from technical assistance.

September-
November **Rating Committee and RFP Review and Recommendation Process**

All applications initially reviewed for minimum eligibility qualifications.

Applicants who submitted incomplete or incorrectly formatted documents are given one week to submit complete/corrected documents.

Using a framework vetted with funding collaborative partners (King County, United Way of King County, All Home), 40% of application scores are based on agencies' own reporting of performance data for the period of January 1 – June 30, 2017 in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS data is pulled and scored in consultation with King County's Performance Measurement and Evaluation team.

12 supplemental applications are separately reviewed for applicants who did not have past performance data of the same project type in HMIS.

All project applications ask questions about the agency's experience using data to improve outcomes.

Of the 181 submitted applications, two were deemed not eligible because the submitting agency does not provide proof of pending 501(c)3 status from the IRS.

The 179 remaining eligible applications are forwarded to the rating committee to be rated individually, and then reviewed as a group.

This RFP used seven project-specific rating committees comprised of nearly 40 people to review applications.

Recommendations are based on narrative and performance data application scores, feedback from applicant interviews, population and geographic considerations, number of households intended to be moved into permanent housing and racial equity goals.

Rating committees were asked to forward more projects for funding than actual funds are available, using a maximum funding amount in each project area. Through this process, each rating committee created a list of projects recommended for full, partial, or no funding.

Rating committees then used a tiered system to determine projects for priority funding and projects which could be funded based on available funds.

-more-

HSD staff who are involved in facilitating the rating committee process, along with others with relevant expertise, then meet to review rating committee recommendations.

Projects are funded in accordance with the rating committee recommendations and available funding.

This group provides a system-level view across all seven project areas and identified any service gaps such as geographic coverage, population-specific needs, etc.

Staff then makes funding and program recommendations to HSD's Deputy Director for Strategy and Services.

A final committee of Systemwide Performance MOU partners was convened by HSD leadership to preview funding recommendations. This committee was asked to affirm recommendations with systems alignment and express any concerns.

The Deputy Director then makes final recommendations to the HSD Director.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 27 | Final awards are announced pending appeals. |
| December 11 | Appeal period ends. |
| December 12 | Any changes to the funding awards are announced. |

###